



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge

A Special Place in Alaska!

- Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge was established to conserve waterfowl, moose, caribou, and fur bearers.
- The refuge's 1,635,000 acres makes it slightly larger in size than the state of Delaware.
- White-fronted and Canada geese nest on the refuge. The white-fronts winter in Louisiana, Texas and Mexico, while the Canada geese go to Washington and Oregon.
- Lightning-caused fires burn the refuge's forest lands on a 30 to 200 year cycle.
- No roads or development exist on the refuge. Access is limited to small float or ski equipped aircraft, small river watercraft, snowmobiles or dogsled.
- Nearly 160 species of birds are found here, including 64 kinds of waterfowl and shorebirds.



The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service manages 16 national wildlife refuges in Alaska, or nearly 82% of the National Wildlife Refuge System acreage.

Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge
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June 2002



P. Martin/USFWS

Kanuti Lake

- The refuge hosts 37 species of mammals including moose, black and brown bear, muskrat, and several healthy wolf packs.
- More than one-third of the refuge has burned since 1990. Fires like these create diverse habitats that support a wide variety of wildlife on the refuge.
- Caribou from the Western Arctic and Ray Mountain herds occasionally winter on the refuge.
- Ducks banded on the refuge migrate along all four North American flyways.
- Temperatures range from minus 70 degrees F to more than 90 degrees F, among the widest annual variances recorded on earth.
- One of the major wetland areas on the refuge was formed 50,000 years ago from a 200 square mile ice-dammed lake.
- The refuge contains a diverse assortment of plant life, ranging from wetland to tundra species.
- Chinook, chum and coho salmon travel over 1,000 miles up the Yukon River to spawn in Koyukuk River tributaries, which run through the heart of the refuge.
- The refuge is open to boating, camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, photography, and other types of recreation.
- Athabascan Indians from nearby villages are primary users of the refuge resources, as they have been for generations.